
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1144

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Kessler, Tokuda, Ogden, Keiser, Cody, Santos, Edmonds, Kenney, Linville, Darneille, O'Brien, Ruderman, Rockefeller, Dickerson, McDermott, Edwards, Conway, Schual-Berke, Jackley, Lovick, McIntire and Haigh)

Read first time 02/11/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the WorkFirst program participation exemption;
2 and amending RCW 74.08A.270.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.270 and 1997 c 58 s 314 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Good cause reasons for failure to participate in WorkFirst
7 program components include: ~~((1))~~ (a) Situations where the recipient
8 is a parent or other relative personally providing care for a child
9 under the age of six years, and formal or informal child care, or day
10 care for an incapacitated individual living in the same home as a
11 dependent child, is necessary for an individual to participate or
12 continue participation in the program or accept employment, and such
13 care is not available, and the department fails to provide such care;
14 or ~~((2) until June 30, 1999, if)~~ (b) the recipient is a parent with
15 a child under the age of one year, except that at the time a child
16 reaches the age of three months, the recipient is required to
17 participate in one of the following for up to twenty hours per week:

18 (i) Instruction or training which has the purpose of improving
19 parenting skills or child well-being;

1 (ii) Preemployment or job readiness training;
2 (iii) Course study leading to a high school diploma or GED; or
3 (iv) Volunteering in a child care facility licensed under chapter
4 74.15 RCW so long as the child care facility agrees to accept the
5 recipient as a volunteer and the child without compensation while the
6 parent is volunteering at the facility. The volunteer recipient and
7 his or her child shall not be counted for the purposes of determining
8 licensed capacity or the staff to child ratio of the facility.

9 (2) Nothing in this section shall prevent a recipient from
10 participating fully in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis. A
11 recipient who chooses to participate fully in the WorkFirst program
12 shall be considered to be fulfilling the requirements of this section.

13 (3) For any recipient who claims a good cause reason for failure to
14 participate in the WorkFirst program based on the fact that the
15 recipient has a child under the age of one year, the department shall,
16 within existing resources, conduct an assessment of the recipient
17 within ninety days and before a job search component is initiated in
18 order to determine if the recipient has any specific service needs or
19 employment barriers. The assessment may include identifying the need
20 for substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, or domestic
21 violence services, and shall be used in developing the recipient's
22 individual responsibility plan.

23 (4) A parent may only receive ((this)) the exemption ((for a total
24 of twelve months, which may be consecutive or nonconsecutive; or (3)
25 after June 30, 1999, if the recipient is a parent with a child under
26 three months of age)) under subsection (1)(b) of this section one time,
27 for one child.

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